

STATE SENATOR • MARK SCHAUER • 19<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

# Schauer Press Release



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **BATTLE CREEK EARNS COOL CITY STATUS \$100,000 Grant Accompanies Designation**

**LANSING**—State Senator Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek) is pleased to announce that Governor Granholm has designated Battle Creek among Michigan's "Cool Cities." The Cool Cities project is expanding to include 19 additional communities.

"Helping Battle Creek attain the "Cool City" designation was a high priority for us this year. I have seen other cities prosper through the opportunities this program provides, and I expect Battle Creek to benefit significantly," said Schauer. Senator Schauer was instrumental in Battle Creek's selection for the project. He met with the Governor and other administration officials to promote the qualities that make Battle Creek a strong candidate for the program.

As part of the "Neighborhood in Progress" designation, Battle Creek will receive a \$100,000 "catalyst grant." Other benefits include priority access to existing state grant funds, loans, and tax credits. Each of the "Neighborhood in Progress" recipients will receive access to a 'resource toolbox' that includes more than 75 state community improvement grants and loan and assistance programs, allowing them to leverage millions of existing dollars for revitalization.

"Vibrant communities that focus on being great places to live encourage economic growth by focusing the attention on our greatest resource, our exceptional workforce. Companies will be drawn here because they will be able to draw upon our existing pool of outstanding individuals and show new workers that Battle Creek is a great place to move to," explained Schauer.

Battle Creek will use its catalyst grant for the Riverfront Condominium Project. Three historic buildings on Michigan Avenue will be renovated into a combination of attached living structures and street level store fronts. Studies have shown that the prevalence of mixed use neighborhoods tends to encourage both business and residential development.

"Battle Creek is already a wonderful place to live," said Schauer, a Battle Creek resident himself. "This program will help us expand our efforts to establish Battle Creek as a place where you can experience the benefits of an urban lifestyle, like walking to work, theatres and grocery stores, right here in mid-Michigan."

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*Mark Schauer is the Senate Democratic Floor Leader. He represents the 19<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes all of Calhoun County and most of Jackson County.*